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Candace Havens

Senior

Environmental Planner

Jennifer Steel

Conservation Commission

Members

Ira Wallach, Chairman
Susan Lunin, V-Chairman
Judy Hepburn, Secretary
Norm Richardson
Roger Matthews
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINTUES

Date: June 26, 2014

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: City Hall, Room 209

With quorum present, the meeting opened at 7:32 p.m., Vice-Chairman Susan Lunin presiding.

Members Present: Jane Sender, Judy Hepburn, Norm Richardson, Susan Lunin, Dan Green (7:40).

Members Absent: Ira Wallach, Roger Matthews

Staff Present: Jennifer Steel

Members of the Public: See attached sign-in sheet

WETLAND CASES

1. (7:30 – 8:00) -- NOI -- 1000 Commonwealth Ave. – City Hall Middle Pond – Reestablish Historic Landscape. Proposed settlement.

- Owner: City of Newton. Applicant: Parks and Rec. Rep.: P&R
- Request: Reestablish historic landscape by removing invasive undergrowth and unhealthy trees along banks of the ponds.
- Jurisdiction: Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone
- Presentation and Discussion: Preserving wildlife habitat and shade from the shrub layer is in conflict with historic restoration mandates and interests. A compromise of requiring removal of invasives and installation of beds of ground covers to offset removal of shrubs seemed appropriate. The 2006 Pressley analysis/report/recommendation is very detailed. The proposal is to remove roughly 1/3 of the shrub layer and replace with low growing plants and remove the chainlink fence. The Commission felt that more detail was needed in regard to the restoration of the shrub-cleared areas.
- Vote: Motion to continue hearing until a restoration plan is submitted (moved: Dan Green, second: Jane Sender, vote: 5:0:0).

CONSERVATION AREA MATTERS

2. (8:00 – 8:30) – Eagle Scout Cameron Riley presenting conservation area survey results

- Presentation and Discussion: Cameron gave PowerPoint presentation of his survey of all conservation parcels and his final report and list of recommended projects. The Commission was very grateful for his work and summary report. A letter of thanks was issued.

3. (8:30 – 8:45) – Conservation Area Maintenance Funding Distribution

- Presentation and Discussion:
- Jennifer Steel discussed the draft table of activities and estimated costs. The first task is sign fabrication and sign installation. Later tasks, in order of priority: safety (boardwalks, trails, trees), accessibility (trails, boardwalks, parking), ecology (invasives control). The Commission would like to see samples of the proposed bollards (since they are such a large investment).
- Dan Green agreed to find an intern to help with the Norumbega restoration plan.
- Jane Sender and Norm Richardson will visit Houghton Garden to help determine priorities there.

- Jennifer Steel met with Carol Schein and Elaine Gentile to discuss an invasives removal/disposal policy for the City. They will develop a species-specific policy/plan.

4. (8:45 – 9:00) – Summary of Jennifer Steel's 6/16/14 meeting with DCR.

- Hammond Pond Partnership Grant for weed control was met with approval by DCR, but Newton did not fund the \$5,000 municipal portion
- Quinobequin Trail – Friends of Quinobequin will be applying to install one water diversion feature or a boardwalk and one small boardwalk/bridge.
- Docks at Rt. 30 were expanded under an NOI filed by Larry Smith, but they are out of compliance with the OOC, and now there is a new lessee (not Larry). DCR will develop a strategy for compliance
- Boat house at Daly Rink is out of compliance. The lessee, Newton Country Day School, never applied for a permit to rebuild the boathouse (which has 5' eaves) and perennial docs. The Commission would like to have Newton Country Day School and DCR come to the next meeting to discuss issues of boathouse expansion and dock installation.

WETLAND CASES – for discussion (9:00 – 9:30)

5. **230 Lake Ave** – There have been reports of an expansion of the “private beach” alongside the public walkway across from 230 Lake Ave, and a sign indicating private property has been installed at beach-side. Jennifer has conducted a site visit, and been in email contact with the abutter. The abutter says that “only weeds were removed”, but it appears from the photo record that considerable alteration has occurred. The Commission asked that the photos be sent to the abutter, and that he/she be asked to come to the next meeting. It was suggested that Park and Rec place signs indicating that the public is welcome to walk the pathway. DCR is not clear on who is the “administrator” of Great Ponds.
6. **73 Beaconwood legal case.** – A new draft proposed settlement agreement was distributed for the Commission to consider in advance of next meeting.
7. **46 Suffolk Rd.** – Hydroseed is in place. Still awaiting mitigation planting plan. Potential owner interested in fogging for mosquitoes. The Commission noted that fogging is not recommended, but that Bti would be the best active ingredient.
8. **Kessler Way** – There is interest in closing out, before transfer to Homeowners Association. The Commission did want nesting boxes and so the applicant should be asked to install five (5) nesting boxes.

WETLAND CASES – updates (9:30 – 9:45)

9. **1 Nonantum Rd (Daly Field Reconstruction)** was appealed by CRWA. Jennifer sent a memo to DEP to establish the Commission’s position in the case.
10. **Crystal Lake Condos** – got a recommendation from Marc Welch to remove large old silver maple. Jennifer Steel asked that two native saplings to be planted. There has been no response yet.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS to be VOTED ON (9:30 – 9:45)

11. **Minutes of 6-05-14** to be considered for approval.
 - Vote: Motion to approve the minutes (moved: Dan Green, second: Norm Richardson, vote: 4:0:1).
12. **Executive Session Minutes of 6-05-14** to be considered for approval.
 - Vote: Motion to approve the minutes (moved: Dan Green, second: Judy Hepburn, vote: 4:0:1).

OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

13. **Appoint Jane Sender to be Con Com member on Community Preservation Committee** to replace Dan Green whose term expired.
 - Vote: Motion to appoint Jane Sender to be Con Com member on Community Preservation Committee (moved: Dan Green, second: Norm Richardson, vote: 4:0:1).

Adjourn

- Vote: Motion to adjourn at 9:40 (moved: Dan Green, second: Judy Hepburn, vote: 5:0:0).